

# By the Queene.

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A Proclamation for the execution of the lawes made agaynst vnlawfull Reteynors. &c.



The Queenes Maiestie understanding, aswell by her owne carefull observation of her policie, as by report of suche as haue thadministration of Justice in her Realme, howe uniuersally the vnlefull reteynynge of multitude of vno:rdinary seruauntes, by liueries, badges, and other signes and tokens, contrary to the good & ancient statutes and lawes of this Realme, doth manifestly withdrawe from her Maiesties crowne, the due seruices of her officers, tenantes, and subiectes, and doth also playnely hynder iustice, and disorder the good policie of the Realme, by mayntenance of vnlefull suites and titles, and by stirring vp, and nouryshyng of factious, ryotes, and vnlefull assemblies, the mothers of rebellion, besydes suche other great inconueniences that alreadly are seene, and moe lykely dayly to folowe, ys speedy remedy be not prouided for this purpose, is moued with a most earnest intention, to procure a speedy reformation thereof. And because her Maiesties intent is, rather to haue generally her lawes duely obserued, and the defaultes quietly resourmed, then the great forfaitures to be leuied, which are due to her Maiestie, and myght greatly by iustice enriche her treasure, specially in the streyght execution of the sayde lawes, aswell by the persons that haue and do vnlefullly reteyne others, as also by them that are so vnlefullly reteyned against the lawes. Therfore her Maiestie of her speciall grace, doth by this her proclamation notisfe to all persons, of what estate or degréz so ever the same be, who shal after the xx. day of February next folowyng, vnlefullly reteyne, or be reteyned, in any seruice, by liuery, badges, or other token, contrary to the statutes and lawes of this Realme therfore prouided, the same shall not haue any manner of fauour or grace of her Maiestie, for any suche offence committed agaynst the sayde lawes, before nor after the same twentith day. And contrarywise, who so ever shall vpon this admonition forbeare to offend herein, from and after the sayde twentith day of February next, shal not be in any wyse impeached at her Maiesties suite, nor shal forfaite any thyng to her Maiestie for the same: And so her Maiesties pleasure is, that all her Justices and officers, before whom any suite is, or shalbe commenced, for any offence committed, or to be cōmited, before the said xx. of February, to haue regarde to this her Maiesties gratiouse dispensation. And so the better execution of the lawes and statutes remaynyng in force against any such vnlefull reteynors, her Maiestie chargeth all manner her Justices and officers, to whom the execution of the same is prescribed, to cause inquisition, or examination, accordyng to the sayde lawes, to be made in all places of the Realme, immediatly, or as soone as conveniently they may, after the sayde twentith day of February: And that all Justices of Assise, and gaole deliueries, aswell in townes corporate, & franchises, as in any Counties, shall at their next sessions haue due regarde, by good examination and triall, that no person be impanelled in any Jury before them, that is vnlefullly reteyned, without due reformation and purmyshyng of the same, for the better example thereof, in their open sessions. And further they shall cause a sufficient newe Jury to be charged apart at the same sessions, diligently for that only purpose, to enquire of the poyntes and articles of all the statutes beyng in force, and specially of the Statute made the thirde yere of her Maiesties noble graundefather kyng Henry the seuenth, against vnlefull reteynors, and geue also some order, that (as the trueth maye be therein underslante) some good evidence may be geuen to the sayde Jury in that behalfe: And that al other thynges, by the care of the sayde Justices, may be done, both at their next sessions, and at all other their sessions following: Wherby the inconueniences aboue mentioned, may be the more speedyly resourmed, and the lawes hereafter in this behalfe better kept. And to the intent her Maiestie may be the better satisfied in her earnest desire, to see the effect of her desire in this behalfe, her Maiestie wylleth, that her saide Justices of Assise, shall after their next sessions, at some convenient tyme, make reporte to her Maiestie, of their doynges, and of their opinions, for the better execution hereof, as cause shall require. And further, her Maiestie chargeth all manner of persons, that haue any seruantes vnlefullly reteyned, by liueries, badges, or

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by any other compact, who shall require to be discharged, for any offence punyfable before the sayde . xx.  
day of February : that they shall before the sayde twentith day, discharge their sayde seruantes so vnles-  
ly retayned, of their seruices, in respect of the danger of the lawes : and therpon the sayde seruantes shall  
accept the sayde discharge, and shall ceasse to weare the badges, or other tokens wherby they were accus-  
tomed to be retayned, vpon payne that yf the sayde seruantes shall continue to be retayned vnlesly in the  
sayde seruice, or in wearyng of the same badges or tokens, after the saide twentith of February, they shal  
not be any wylle forborne from punyfement for their defaultes committed agaynst the lawes before the said  
twentith of February. And soasmuch as by the sayde statute made in the thirde yere of her Maiesties  
noble graundfather kyng Henry the seventh, provision is specially made vpon weyghty consideracions,  
by great penalties of forfaytures agaynst sundry officers, as Stewardes, Auditours, Receauers, and Bay-  
lyes, of the Queenes Maiesties Honours, Manours, and Landes, and against Constables, or Keepers  
of her Maiesties Castels, Wardens, Masters of game, Pavillons, Tappis, or any other vnters or her ser-  
uities forrestes, Chases, Parkes, or Warrenes, for being them selues vnlesly retayned, or for their vn-  
lesly retaynyng, or for susteynyng to be retayned, any manner of person dwellyng within their sayde offices  
or rules, without ensourmyng her Maiestie therof within fourtie dayes, and also agaynst all her Mai-  
esties farmours, or Tenantes of any of her landes, that are or shalbe vnlesly retayned by any others, vpon  
payne of forfayture of their farmes: Her Maiestie hath thought good, specially and particularly, for  
better information, and to auoyde ignorance, to geue warnyng hereof to all persons hauyng any such offi-  
ces, and to all other beyng her farmours or Tenantes, whom the sayde statute may touche, that they al-  
so do speedly resourne them selues in the offences therin particularly specified, before the saide twentith  
of February, vpon payne that yf they shall not so do, her Maiestie assyureth them, that she wyll not in any  
wylle remit the sayde penalties and forfaytures, whiche by execucion of the sayde statutes, and other her  
lawes, may duelye and fustlye growe to her for the offences that are or shalbe committed before the sayde  
twentith day of February, agaynst the sayde lawes and statutes.

Yeven at her hyghnesse paissance of Westmister, the thirde day of January. 1571. in the fourteenth  
yeare of her Maiesties raigne.

*God save the Queene.*

Imprinted at London in Powles

Churcharde, by Richarde Iugge and Iohn Catwood,  
Printers to the Queenes Maiestie.

Cum priuilegio Regie Maiestatis.